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REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-7, 10, 13-23, 25, 27 and 29 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Thus, independent claims 8, 9, 11, 12, 24, 26, 28 and 30 remain pending under consideration in the present application.

With appreciation, it is noted that the Office Action indicates (see present Office Action, page 7, item 4) claims 8, 9, 11, 12, 24, 26, 28 and 30 as containing allowable subject matter.

Noted - IDS Considered

The indication (see attachment to the Office Action mailed April 25, 2008 and present Office Action) that the Information Disclosure Statements as filed on December 20, 2005, October 4, 2006, March 1, 2007 and November 18, 2009 and references listed therein have been considered is noted with appreciation.

Noted - Drawings Approved

The indication (see Office Action Summary of the Office Action mailed April 25, 2008, boxes 10(a) as checked) that the Drawings (submitted on December 20, 2005) have been approved is noted with appreciation.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-7, 10 and 13-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kajiya et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0137721, Kajiya hereinafter) in view of Pirio et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,532,861, Pirio hereinafter) and Tsuda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,038,063, Tsuda hereinafter).

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Claims 23, 25, 27 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kajiya in view of Pirio, Tsuda and Bonthron et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,738,173, Bonthron hereinafter).

Claims 1-7, 10, 13-23, 25, 27 and 29 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Accordingly, their rejections are moot, and withdrawal of such rejections is respectfully requested.

As suggested in the Office Action, claims 8, 9, 11, 12, 24, 26, 28 and 30 have been rewritten in independent form to be allowable.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections of record and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would assist in resolving any issues pertaining to the allowability of the above-identified application, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below. Please grant any required extensions of time and charge any fees due in connection with this request to deposit account no. 50-4610.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 9, 2010 By /Tiep H. Nguyen/

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